

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 /090 W

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R 300830Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6678

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH VOTE IN UNSC ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) USUN 0284, (B) STOCKHOLM 0477

1. AS REF A POINTS OUT, LAST MINUTE INTRODUCTION BY
BRITISH DELEGATION OF AMENDMENT TO NON-ALIGNED DRAFT ON
MID-EAST CONTRIBUTED TO SWEDISH DECISION TO
ABSTAIN IN THE UNSC FINAL VOTE. MFA SOURCES HAVE
CONFIRMED TO US THAT PRIOR TO BRITISH MOVE, GOS HAD
TAKEN LINE THAT THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION DID NOT RPT
NOT UNDERMINE SC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. HOWEVER, ONCE
BRITISH PROPOSAL WAS INTRODUCED AND SUBSEQUENTLY
DEFEATED, GOS COULD NO LONGER MAINTAIN THE FICTION THAT
NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION DID NOT DEROGATE FROM VALIDITY OF
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242 AND 338. AS FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON TOLD US

(REF B), GOS ABSTAINED ON NON-ALIGNED DRAFT RESOLUTION BECAUSE IT DID NOT RPT NOT UNAMBIGUOUSLY REAFFIRM VALIDITY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS.

2. EARLIER POSITION TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION, ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, HAD BEEN DECIDED AT MONDAY (JANUARY 26) MEETING OF GOVERNMENT PRESIDED OVER BY PRIME MINISTER PALME, FOLLOWING WEEKEND STUDY BY MFA OF RESOLUTION, WHICH HAD CONCLUDED THAT SWEDEN SHOULD SUPPORT IT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THERE WAS LITTLE OPPOSITION WITHIN GOS TO SUCH A LINE. THEN ON MONDAY NIGHT THE LEADERS OF THE THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE SUMMONED TO A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE INFORMED OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. BOTH GOSTA BOHMAN, LEADER OF THE MODERATE PARTY, AND PER AHLMARK, CHIEF OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT DECISION, WITH BOHMAN INSISTING THAT THE PRESTIGIOUS FOREIGN ADVISORY COUNCIL--SWEDEN'S HIGHEST BODY ON DECISIONS AFFECTING NATIONAL SECURITY--SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION. ANDERSSON'S ANSWER WAS THAT THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TIME TO CONVENE THE COUNCIL, SINCE THE UNSC VOTE WOULD TAKE PLACE THAT VERY NIGHT.

3. IN A RADIO NEWS BROADCAST THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BRITISH AMENDMENT "RESULTED IN A SERIOUS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT WAS BEING DECIDED," ADDING, "WE COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH UNCERTAINTY." AT THE SAME TIME, ANDERSSON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF THE BRITISH PROPOSAL HAD NOT BEEN MADE, THE GOS WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION, SINCE "WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INTERPRET THE NEW RESOLUTION AS AN ADDITION TO 242." THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT THROUGH THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION THE PALESTINIANS WOULD FOR THE FIRST TIME "HAVE BEEN GRANTED THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND IN PRINCIPLE ALSO THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A NEW STATE IN THE AREA."

4. WHETHER IT WAS PRIMARY PURPOSE OF BRITISH MOVE OR NOT, THE TABLING OF AMENDMENT PRACTICALLY OBLIGATED THE GOS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ABSTAIN ON THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION, SINCE THE FAILURE OF THE BRITISH AMENDMENT TO BE APPROVED DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY TO SWEDISH PUBLIC THAT, CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT'S CONTENTION EARLIER, THE RESOLUTION DID NOT IMPLY ACCEPTANCE OF 242 AND 338.

5. GOS IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE, IN AN ELECTION YEAR, TO COVER ITSELF AGAINST CHARGES FROM THE NON-SOCIALIST

OPPOSITION THAT IT HAS SHIFTED FROM ITS
TRADITIONAL PRO-ISRAELI LINE AND IS NOW "TILTING" TOWARDS
THE ARABS. SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF SWEDISH PUBLIC
OPINION (INCLUDING SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATS) WERE DISTURBED
BY SWEDEN'S VOTE EARLY LAST MONTH SUPPORTING PLO
PARTICIPATION IN THE UNSC DEBATE (STOCKHOLM 6237).
IMPLICIT REJECTION OF THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS--WHICH
HAVE FOR SO LONG BEEN CITED AS FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF
SWEDISH MID-EAST POLICY--BY VOTING IN FAVOR OF
NON-ALIGNMENT DRAFT, COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING
FOREIGN POLICY AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN ISSUE, WHICH
GOVERNMENT WISHES TO AVOID. AS A RESULT, GOS WAS HARDLY
IN A POSITION TO DO OTHER THAN ABSTAIN, AND FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDERSSON SO INSTRUCTED SWEDISH UN.S. AMBASSADOR
RYDBECK.
STRAUSZ HUPE

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